

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figure 2C, which is now designated as Prior Art.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action objects to Figure 2C because it should be labeled as "prior art". Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet labeling Figure 2C as "prior art". Applicants have amended the specification rendering the remaining objections to the drawings moot.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 object to the Figures because reference characters in the specification refer to two different items. Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the objection to the Figures. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections.

Paragraph 8 of the Office Action recites several portions of the specification which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants have amended the specification in light of the Examiner's objections. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 17 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicants have amended the pending claims in view of the Examiner's remarks. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections.

Claims 7, 9-12, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 19 in light of the

Examiner's comments. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Additionally, Applicants note that the Abstract was objected to for being too long. Applicants submit herewith an amended Abstract and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-12 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,413 ("Zeng"). Further, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-19, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,353,227 ("Boxen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,632 ("Hoheisel"). Claims 4, 10, 14, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boxen and Hoheisel and further in view of Zeng. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or combine references to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The prior art references must also teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim in question. See, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). A reference can only be used for what it clearly discloses or suggests. See, In re Hummer, 113 U.S.P.Q. 66 (C.C.P.A. 1957); In re Stencel, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1071, 1073 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Here, the references, whether taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the invention claimed by the Applicants.

Among the limitations of each of Applicants independent claims not present in the cited reference a configuration wherein the radiation passages of the collimator each have a cross-sectional area greater than that of the radiation detectors, the radiation passages being moved relative to the radiation detectors in two orthogonal

directions. Because the radiation passages are moved in two orthogonal directions, sufficiently collimated radiation rays are directed to the radiation detector in a relatively short time period. Thus, the resolution of the radiographic inspection apparatus is enhanced.

Neither Zeng, Boxen, nor Hoheisel individually or in combination disclose the explicitly recited feature of moving the radiation passages relative to the radiation detectors in two orthogonal directions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims, which include this limitation, are allowable over the cited references whether taken alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

Claims 2-6 depend either directly or indirectly from, and contain all the limitations of claim 1. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 1, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 2-6 should also be allowed.

Claims 8-12 depend either directly or indirectly from, and contain all the limitations of claim 7. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 7, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 8-12 should also be allowed.

Claims 14-17 depend either directly or indirectly from, and contain all the limitations of claim 13. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 13, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 14-17 should also be allowed.

Claims 20-22 depend either directly or indirectly from, and contain all the limitations of claim 19. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 19, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 20-22 should also be allowed.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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Attachments

Application No. 10/765,909

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



FIG. 2A

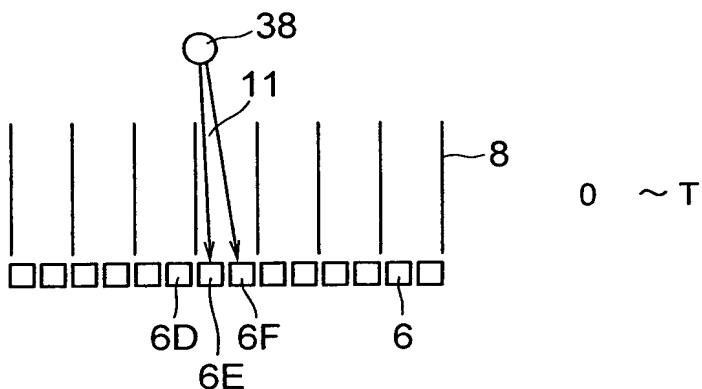
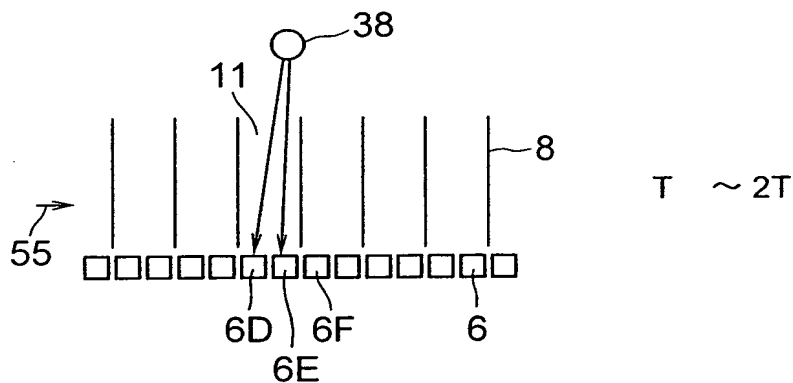


FIG. 2B



PRIOR ART

FIG. 2C

